










Office of Public Instruction

Student Assessment Program

Montana students consistently score higher than the national average on a wide variety of achievement tests. The Board of Public Education requires all Montana 4th, 8th, and 11th grade students to be tested annually in mathematics, science, reading, language arts, and social studies. OPI's State Assessment Director oversees the development, implementation, and analysis of all student testing information under MontCAS, Montana's Comprehensive Assessment System. Results of the tests are reported to the Board of Public Education and made available to the public and news media. The Student Assessment Program is also responsible for the administration of the criterion-reference test to meet the testing and accountability requirements of President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" legislation. The program's functions include:

-  Oversees the Board of Public Education's state-required annual testing of 35,000 Montana 4th, 8th, and 11th grade students in five subject areas
-  Oversees the federal No Child Left Behind required annual testing of Montana 3rd through 8th and 10th grade students in reading and math
-  Collects and analyzes all student test results by grade level, school, and demographic measures including gender, race, students with disabilities, and socioeconomic status
-  Reports test results annually to the Board of Public Education, the US Department of Education, the public, and the news media [MCA-20-3-106 (29)]. Works with educators, parents, the public, and the news media on the proper interpretation and use of test score information
-  Disseminates test results on OPI website for each of Montana's 840 schools
-  Conducts workshops for test administrators on required testing procedures for the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and Iowa Test of Educational Development (MontCAS, Phase I) to ensure accurate and comparable test results
-  Works with Montana educators to administer the criterion-reference tests required by No Child Left Behind for Montana students in grades 3-8 and 10 in reading, math, and science
-  Analyzes and reports to the public and news media additional student test results including the ACT and SAT tests for college bound seniors and the results for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) tests
-  Works with Montana educators to implement a statewide assessment of students with limited English proficiency as required by No Child Left Behind



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